



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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The fishing season for the Pacific herring will begin June 15 in southeastern Alaska with the prospect of the largest catch in the Territory as a whole since 1939, the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries reported today.

The herring fishery, which, after salmon, is Alaska's most important fishing industry, is subject to regulations issued annually by the Department of the Interior for the protection of the commercial fisheries of the Territory. Based on a survey of the probable abundance of herring by biologists of the Fish and Wildlife Service, this year's regulations have been liberalized to permit the taking of approximately 175,000,000 pounds of herring, compared with a catch of about 84,000,000 pounds last year, and only 37,000,000 pounds in 1942.

Satisfactory increases in abundance of herring were noted by the biologists in all the major fishing areas, especially Kodiak and southeastern Alaska. The latter area was closed to all herring fishing in 1940 because of the severe depletion of the stock, but several very successful spawning seasons have so restored abundance that a quota of 200,000 barrels has been authorized in southeastern Alaska. The quota for Prince William Sound, where fishing begins June 24, is also 200,000 barrels. The season in the Kodiak area opens July 1, with an established quota of 300,000 barrels.

While a small quantity of the catch of Pacific herring is cured as food, by far the most important use is in the manufacture of meal and oil. The distribution of herring oil is rigidly controlled by the Government, the supply being restricted to certain essential uses for which it is particularly suitable. These are the manufacture of water insoluble metallic soaps, natural leather, lubricants, and metal working compounds other than core oil.